



Spilyay Tymoo

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Smith named distinguished principal

It was an honor not only for the individual, Dawn Smith, but also for the tribes as a whole. The award said a lot about Smith, but also about the Warm Springs Elementary School teachers and staff, the students and parents.

Smith, principal of the school, recently was named the National Distinguished Principal for the state of Oregon. She was chosen for the award from among the many other principals in the state.

In August she will travel to Washington, D.C., with the National Distinguished Principals from the other 49 states. One of the 50 will then be named the National Distinguished Principal of America.

Smith has been with Warm Springs Elementary School for nearly three decades. In recent years she and her staff have focused on improving student attendance and performance, with excellent results.

As an example, the scores of the Warm Springs Elementary School students on standardized



Warm Springs Elementary School Principal Dawn Smith

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

tests have more than tripled since Smith became the principal.

The improvement in student attendance and performance are in part due to the high ex-

pectations that Smith sets for herself and her staff, the students and the parents.

Smith was nominated for the National Distinguished Principal award by Warm Springs Elementary School teacher Sara Ohman.

"Dawn sets the character and quality of education for her students, staff and community," Ohman said in letter of nomination. "She is a mentor and role model for us all."

Smith first started working at Warm Springs Elementary School in 1974. Over the years she has been a teacher, counselor, vice-principal and the principal. She is also the special education coordinator, and a special education teacher.

Recently, when students and staff heard that Smith had been named the National Distinguished Principal for the state, they held a congratulations party, with flowers and congratulatory cards.

The distinguished principal is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and an investment insurance company, Valic.

Museum to host parade, powwow

The Museum at Warm Springs is celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the museum's opening.

For the occasion the museum and the tribes will host a memorial horse parade, museum blessing and rededication, and a powwow on the museum grounds.

The events are set for Saturday, May 31. The horse parade will begin at 10 a.m.

The museum blessing and rededication will be at 1 p.m., and the powwow begins at 2 p.m.

The memorial horse parade will be followed by a powwow on the museum grounds.

For information, contact Rosalind Sampson at the museum. The number is 553-3331.

Tribes, agencies sign unique agreement

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The traditional land of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs includes a large area, well beyond the borders of the reservation.

By the Treaty of 1855 the tribes gave up some interest in this large area, known as the Ceded Lands. But the treaty also guarantees to tribal members certain rights and interests on the Ceded Lands.

The Ceded Lands can be defined in general terms as north Central Oregon. The boundaries in broad terms are the Columbia River south to the Crooked River, and the John Day basin west past the summit of the Cascade Mountains.

The tribes have many cultural interests within this area. Interests include water, fish and wildlife, roots, berries and other plants, and archaeological sites.

Today, the federal government manages part of the Ceded Lands, through the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Forest Service and BLM make decisions that can affect tribal interests in the land. For this reason it is important that the tribes and the federal agencies work together to protect these interests.

In the past the Confederated Tribes had a written agreement — a memorandum of understanding, or MOU — with the Ochoco National Forest.

As of last month, following a signing ceremony at Kah-Nee-Ta, the tribes now have a written management agreement with seven national forests and the BLM.

The new agreement is unique in the number of agencies involved, said Bobby Brunoe, general manager of the tribal Natural Resources Branch. The process of developing the memorandum of understanding took four years, because of the number of agencies involved, said Brunoe.

Federal agencies that are part of the agreement include the following national forests: The Ochoco, Deschutes,

Willamette, Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, Mt. Hood, Malheur and the Crooked River National Grassland.

Officials of the Oregon office of the BLM and the Bureau of Indians Affairs have also signed the agreement.

The tribes will benefit in a number of ways through the memorandum of understanding, said Brunoe.

For instance, he said, the tribes will be included at the start, rather than toward the end of the federal land management decision-making process.

The federal agencies often make decisions that effect tribal interests such as fish, huckleberries, roots and archaeological sites, among other interests.

The MOU also includes a provision regarding contract work with the federal agencies. The contracting provision is intended to give the tribes the ability to contract for certain work projects on the national forest and BLM land, said Brunoe. This should result in more jobs for tribal members,

"This recognizes the need to work as co-managers of the Ceded Lands..."

Bobby Brunoe

he said.

The federal agencies agreed that the Mount Hood National Forest office would house the contracting office for work on any of the national forests that are part of the MOU. This also is a unique aspect of the agreement, said Brunoe.

Brunoe said of the MOU: "This recognizes the need to work as co-managers of the Ceded Lands, and helps keep an open line of communication between the tribes and the agencies."

As stated in the agreement itself: "The tribes and the agencies desire to collaborate in an open and interactive process whereby all parties work constructively together to address

(See signing ceremony photo on page 2.)

Judge rejects fisheries management opinion

A federal judge has invalidated a decision by the National Marine Fisheries Service on how to restore and protect salmon in the Columbia River basin.

This was a victory for those who want improved management of fisheries in the basin, said Don Sampson, executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

The commission is one of 16 organizations that challenged the Fisheries Service opinion on salmon habitat restoration and protection. The commission represents the four treaty tribes of the Columbia basin, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

"We believe the judge's de-

cision will help hold the dams accountable for their impacts on the salmon," said Sampson.

U.S. District Judge James Redden earlier this month ruled that the National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinion on salmon protection and restoration was inadequate.

The ruling sends the opinion back to the Fisheries Service for revision.

Sampson said this could result in an improved opinion with stronger language directed toward the federal agencies responsible for river management.

The agencies include the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

See SALMON on page 2

Documentary features local youths

The lives of four local youths are featured in a new documentary, called Growing Up Native.

The youths featured in the 60-minute documentary are Ashley Aguilar, Jerrod Kalama, Armina Moody and Lydell Suppah.

The premier showing of Growing Up Native will be from 4 to 6 p.m., Sunday, May 18, at the Museum at Warm Springs.

Filmmaker Kim Harvey-Trigoso filmed the documentary footage on the Warm Springs Reservation during the winter of 2001-02. The film was edited earlier this year.

"The documentary treats the lives of four youths growing up on the reservation. Each life story touches upon a particular challenge that youths face on the

reservation, and the process of overcoming the challenge," said Harvey-Trigoso.

"Growing up is treated symbolically as a journey of transformation, of dying in order to be reborn, and each youth is conceived as the hero of his or her own story."

The making of this documentary involved the collaboration of the community of Warm Springs, the youths, and the cultural anthropologist filmmaker.

The topic of Growing Up Native originated from the wish of the adults in Warm Springs to learn more about what their youths feel and go through as they grow up.

The Tribal Council approved and supported this project as part of the effort to bridge the channels of communication between

generations.

One of the most important goals of Growing Up Native is to serve as a tool for awareness, and promote dialogue between youths and adults.

Also, this is an effort to depict the current reality of Native American youths, and offer positive alternatives to other youths who encounter similar life situations.

The documentary was sponsored by the Museum at Warm Springs, and was awarded a grant from the Oregon Council for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The grant is contributing to post-production costs, including screening of the documentary, and an open dialogue afterward in different communities, in-

cluding Warm Springs, Portland and Umatilla. The screenings are being facilitated by the Museum at Warm Springs, the Native American Youth Association, and the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute.

The producers of the documentary would also like to thank the following people for their support: Stoney Miller, William Fuentes, Myra Johnson, Anita Davis, Foster Kalama, Carole Leone, Andy Leonard, Flossie Wolfe, Don Courtney, Elton Greeley, Margie Gabriel, Ed Henderson, Daisy Ike and Rosalind Sampson.

Thanks also goes to the Tribal Council and the Museum at Warm Springs, and the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

Honoring seniors



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Reggie Winishut was among the tribal elders who enjoyed the recent Honor Seniors Day, held at the Agency Longhouse.